

Cordell Bank NMS Advisory Council Meeting
December 2, 2004
Minutes

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Meeting Commenced at 9:40 a.m.

All Present:

Carol Keiper
Doreen Moser
Brian Mulvey
Dan Cohen
Bill McMillon
Josh Churchman
Rowena Forest
Joe Smith
Tom Lambert

Discussion of the agenda in regards to the absence of Dan Howard (out sick):

The agenda was adjusted to accommodate manager's absence.

Minutes approved

Motion:

Doreen Moser motioned to approve September, 2004 meeting minutes as final.

Joe Smith seconded.

Public Comment Period

Member of the public present: Dianne Berl

Ms. Berl identified herself and addressed her interest in Sanctuary conservation and education. She is originally from the Monterey Bay Area, and is familiar with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS), but not the workings of the Advisory Councils.

Carol and Bill covered the roll of the council and recommended she review the website.

Council Member Updates

Josh Churchman: took Michelle Hester and the Albatross research group out on his boat to catch and tag a Black-footed albatross. They located one individual to place a transmitter on. The holding and process of attaching transmitter took 27 minutes. It was caught northwest of Cordell Bank. The group of albatross dispersed when catching took place. Josh commented that albatross numbers have declined at Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS) in recent years.

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Josh would like to ask Dan if it would be possible to get an exemption to fish on the 10 submersible research dive spots on Cordell Bank, in order to see what fish are present when submersible is down. Tom commented on the value of this, and the similarity to electrofishing stream counts. In those surveys it is suspected that snorkeling causes disturbance that results in lower counts. Dan Cohen spoke in favor of this as well, and the success of a similar project he is involved with on the East Coast.

The group discussed this possibility and how to propose a contract, and addressing Dan Howard with this. The Council discussed support of this, and encouraged Josh to first approach Dan Howard with this concept.

Josh announced that he has seen higher numbers of Minke whales than in the past. They are seen close to the coast between Muir Beach and Double Point. Carol Keiper and Doreen Moser suggested that Josh talk with Sarah Allen about these sightings, because she keeps record of the local Minke whale sightings.

Doreen Moser: gave an update of two CBNMS field trips this season through Point Reyes National Seashore Association. And commented on unusual whale and bird seasonal patterns. Doreen also announced the stranding of a neo-natal, possible still-born, sperm whale washed up on McClures Beach.

Tom Lambert: gave an update on Mary Yoklavich's presentation in October at the Bodega Marine Lab (BML). And commented on the high attendance and conservation and scientific information that came out of the talk. Bill commented that a local fisherman attending felt the information was biased against sport fishing, and not against commercial fishing. The group discussed the biology of the rockfish.

Joe Smith: commented on the CBNMS 15th anniversary party, and felt it was a success.

Brian Mulvey:

New regional sustainable fisheries administrator has been hired – Mark Helvey - at the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC). Yesterday there was a workshop on the restoration of eelgrass in the SF Bay, and how this pertains to Tomales Bay. The National Marine Fisheries Service ran their ROV in Tomales Bay and took note of the presence of Gracilaria sp. in Tomales Bay, and its importance to the spawn of Herring. Brian announced a talk on the restoration of the native oysters in SF Bay. He will send the announcement of this to the group. This concerns management strategies for the native oysters. Brian covered the presence of native oysters in saline ponds near Mountain View, and the biology of these ponds. Brian also discussed the biology and projects concerning the native oysters in Tomales Bay. Eelgrass reports are published by CalTrans - on PDF files - on the web: www.biomitigation.org.

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Dan Cohen: Discussed his participation recently on an MBARI research dive.

Bill McMillon : Discussed his high school student scientific and restoration projects through the Bodega Marine Lab, and Point Reyes National Seashore/Ben Becker regarding dune habitat restoration, invasive tunicate presence, with the Dept of Health Services regarding water quality on Walker Creek, toxic plankton drags, etc.. Bill commented that the students and community are supportive of these projects, and the projects have received positive media attention. Bill answered questions regarding the biology of the invasive tunicate.

Ruth Howell made an announcement that next week is a Fishing Working Group meeting for GFNMS, with Ecotrust. It will be at the GFNMS offices from 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Carol Keiper: summarized her participation in the CalCOFI research cruise for the month of November. She noted the presence of Grey and Humpback Whales, as well as Cassin's Auklets 100 miles off shore. Carol announced publications and websites with good information about Marine Protected Areas (MPA's), and gave the group a handout listing these. Carol announced that activities concerning the Research Working Group for CBNMS are on hold.

Carol and Doreen requested compensation for mileage to and from SAC meetings, stating it is listed in the Charter as reimbursable. The group agreed to bring up the matter with Dan Howard at the next SAC meeting in January, 2005.

2005 Council Meeting Dates

Ruth Howell interjected that there are important Management Plan Review (MPR) dates in 2005, which should coincide with the scheduling of CBNMS 2005 Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) meetings. Joe requested that Ruth describe the public hearings regarding the draft MPR, which will take place in 2005. These meetings will include presentations, and round table discussions. Ruth covered the continuing roll of the CBNMS SAC in the MPR process. The SAC will participate as facilitators at these meetings.

Drafting the CB Case Study Presentation at the Annual Chairs-Coordination Meeting – Carol Keiper

Carol reviewed her summary of the Case Study presentation, and opened up to the group for editing and comments.

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Josh Churchman commented on the Krill issue, noting it is not resolved – but recommended including the squid fisheries issue which arose last year, the Fishing Working Group (FWG) emergency meetings and resolutions that were put forth to adjust this fishery. Josh also recommended another issue, which has a resolution: hook and line vs. trawling in the Sanctuary recommendations.

Doreen Moser made editing comments for Carol, in order to keep the presentation focused and concise.

Tom Lambert covered the krill harvesting issue as approached by the FWG. All reviewed Tom's handout regarding this.

The group discussed the biology and politics of the krill issue, and how it pertains to CBNMS. The Council agreed that this is appropriate to include in the case study as an example of inter-Sanctuary conservation efforts, but doesn't need to be the exclusive presentation. Ruth Howell interjected with information regarding the political process of these issues in regards to the MPR, and working groups.

Josh Churchman covered the details of the squid fishery impacts in the GFNMS, which arose last year, and the success of the working group, squid fisherman and inter-agency meetings and recommendations. Ruth commented that this had more to do with GF. Josh noted that there has been a squid fishery at CBNMS as well, and feels it applies.

Most Council members felt Carol Keiper should keep the presentation to one topic. Carol will now go to Dan Howard with these ideas and draft the presentation.

Drawing names for the seats

-Carol Keiper and Rowena Forest

The Council drew SAC seat names from a hat in order to determine which seat term limits will be held for three years, and which for two years. Staggering the seat term limits will enable overlap of old and new Council members for future Council composition. The first three drawn will be held for three years, and the last two drawn will be held for two years.

Three-year term limits:

Conservation

Maritime activity

Education

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Two-year term limits:
Community at Large
Research

Alternates will hold concurrent terms to the Council seat of the same position. This selection is awaiting Dan Howard's approval.

SAC Application and Reapplication Process
–Rowena Forest

Rowena covered the process of refilling all CBNMS Advisory Council Seats. She outlined this process, and handed out a copy of the current application guidelines for all Sanctuary Advisory Councils, for the CBNMS SAC to review. She noted that all current seat holders are eligible for re-application, but not extension of their current terms. She encouraged all interested to apply as soon as possible, and to please spread the word of the seats open to their constituency. Rowena will supply a copy of the Federal Register announcement of CB SAC seat vacancies to each Council member to post and disperse.

Outline of the process:

Federal Register notice is drafted through headquarters.

A press release is drafted and approved through headquarters.

Advertise in local media, and constituent locations takes place.

Council members help distribute and spread the word.

The Sanctuary manager writes a cover letter to the National Marine Sanctuary Program director.

A Selection Committee reviews the applications.

All Current SAC interested need to re-apply.

Lunch 12:20-1:00

Locating Marine Reserves Based on Coastal Features: Coupling Ocean Circulation and Larval Settlement Around a Headland –Amber Mace

Talk Outline:

Background

Study system

Methods

Results

Implications for Marine Reserves

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Background:

Crab life cycle

Supply-side Ecology

Life at sea – distribution, etc

Marine Reserves and the Marine Life Protection Act

Upwelling and temperature images of upwelling in relation to larval accumulation

Objectives

Study System/Methods:

Set up four sites around Bodega Bay and Bodega Head

Collectors/collecting method

Physical Oceanographic data

Species caught in collectors

Results:

All spp settle in protected area in greater numbers than the exposed coastal areas.

Headland creates protected settlement area

Larvae delivered via two sources: upwelling and wind. Varies per species

Settlement associated with change in water temperature and wind stress.

Tremendous amount of data has come from this project. There is a large amount of circulation in the Bodega Bay – both wind and water. This effects larval accumulation, and larva have adapted to stay within the bay by counter swimming within the circulations.

Oceanographic summary:

Overall Summary: lee created at heads, and Bodega creates a similar lee to other coastal heads in CA.

Marine Reserves:

Addressing it as ecological preservation, not as fisheries management area

Within marine reserves – description of reserve dynamics

Outside marine reserves – increasing evidence for spillover of spp. reserves replenish populations.

Important questions: size, location and spacing of reserves.

Dispersal and reserves:

Science and Policy for developing effective reserves for ecosystem protection.

Sanctuary mandates – protecting resources vs multiple use

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Questions for Amber –

Dan Cohen asked where the larvae are coming from.
Amber addressed that this is being studied elsewhere – she did not study this.

Dan Cohen: Do males and females segregate?
Amber: Yes

Josh Churchman addressed his observations during fishing in regards to male and female segregation.

How long does it take for larvae to reach adult stage? Four years

The Council discussed the complexities of Dungeness biology with Amber.

Tom Lambert addressed observations of patchy distribution, and difficulties this poses to a fishery, studies, and effectiveness of marine reserves.

There was discussion regarding behavior and cannibalism of crab spp in the collectors/captivity vs in the wild. Amber showed recommended literature regarding marine reserves.

The group discussed the need to encourage interaction between the fishing community and the scientific community.

Suggested Agenda Items for the Next SAC Meeting

Report of the new Council seat holders

Overview of the Chairs Coordinators meeting – Agenda, SAC role, Carol's role, Carol's presentation.

Presentation regarding the biology and preservation of the Olympic/native oyster in Tomales and San Francisco Bays.

Motion:

Joe Smith motioned to Adjourn

Doreen Moser seconded

All in favor

Meeting adjourned 2:00 pm